GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (CONTROL) ORDER, 2001
ALE NARENDRA;MANJAY LAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 sets a three month deadlineto identify below poverty line (BPL) families;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued an order making it mandatory for the State Governments to identify people living below poverty line and also to ensure that they get food at fair price shops;

(c) whether 13 States and 4 Union Territories are still to identify the families covered by the Antyodaya Scheme;

(d) if so, the directions given by the Union Government to these States and the reasons for its delay; and

(e) the extent to which the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 will help thepoor families to get the food in fair price shops?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 267 FOR ANSWER ON 07-12-2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 issued under section 3 ofthe Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides that the exercise of identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya families, wherever it has not been done already, shall be completed by the State Governments within three months of the issue of the Order. The Order also provides that ration cardholders shall be entitled to draw foodgrains from Fair Price Shops on a weekly basis.

(c)&(d): Leaving aside Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Manipur, Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented in all States/UTs. The above named States/UTs have been asked to complete the task of identification of Antyodaya families and issue of distinctive ration cards to them at the earliest so that the poorest of the poor families can avail the benefits under the scheme.

(e): The implementation of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 will make thePublic Distribution System more effective and ensure greater transparency and accountability. The Order has a number of provisions to help poor families get foodgrains from Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in time according to scale and prices fixed.